



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



7 & 8 September 2024: 23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time
Season of Creation ~ Safeguarding Sunday
First Eucharist Masses at St Therese's



First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord, my soul!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

First Eucharist Masses: at all St Therese's Masses this weekend, the readings have been selected as appropriate for the Sacrament of First Eucharist and are not as per the missal.

First Reading: Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever.

Gospel: John 6:51- 58

INTERCESSIONS

Conscious that each person is precious in the eyes of the Lord, let us place our prayers before God who is kind and merciful, and rich in compassion.

For Church leaders, Leaders of Religious Congregations, lay leaders of Church organisations and all entrusted with ministry and pastoral care in the Church: that they will continue to help build stronger faith communities that will promote the safety of children and adults at risk.

For parents, relatives, mentors, teachers, coaches and other adults: that they may always follow the example of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, by treating children and young people with proper respect and care.

For children in our parishes: that we may all work to ensure the happiness and confidence of every child, support them to raise their voices and be heard, and to foster an environment of safety and protection where children flourish.

May we respond to the cry of the Earth and those living in poverty

We pray for our St Therese's Year 4 and RE Programme students who will receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist this weekend. May they find support within their families and our parish community along their faith journey

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

We pray for those who have died recently especially Jo Seddon, Pat Monteleone, Karen Wheeler and Fr Des Magennis. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Francesco Borrello, Adelina Falvo, Millie Nardella, Fred Whitty, Joan & Paul Sapiano, Annie O'Sullivan, Michaelangelo & Carmela Mammone, Lorenzo Fasulo, Tony O'Brien, and Helen Sully.

Gracious and loving God, source of all truth, justice and healing, we implore you to hear the prayers we offer and to look favourably on the pleas of your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

WHICH PRIEST WHERE? This weekend Fr John will be back to preside at all the Sacrament of First Eucharist Masses at St Therese's while Fr Tony presides at OLN.



WELCOME TO SCHOOL FAMILIES AND VISITORS This is a busy weekend between our two churches with the Sacrament of First Eucharist at St Therese's at all weekend Masses and Year 6 students presenting as candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation at OLN.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST AT ST THERESE'S We celebrate First Eucharist as a faith community and parishioners are welcome at the Masses. Music and readers will be from our St Therese's school community and Fr John will preside at the First Eucharist Masses. Some church pews will be assigned to First Eucharist families.

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.

CONFIRMATION MASSES NEXT WEEKEND Two Masses for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held at OLN church next Sunday 15 September at 4:30pm and 6:30pm Bishop Terry Curtain will confer the Sacrament.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024>

VALE 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. Requiem Mass will be held on Monday 16 September 2024 at 11.30am at the Holy Name of Mary Parish, Castlemaine. The Requiem Mass will be livestreamed here: <https://mountalexanderfunerals.com/>

VALE KAREN WHEELER AND PAT MONTELEONE We mourn the passing of OLN parishioners Karen Ann Wheeler (1959 – 2024) and Pasquale (Pat) Monteleone (1941 – 2024). Requiem Mass for Karen will be held at OLN on Wednesday 11 September at 1:00pm. Rosary and Requiem Mass for Pat will be held at OLN on Thursday 12 September at 12:00pm. Our prayers and sympathies are with the Wheeler and Monteleone families at this sad time.

PARISH AMALGAMATION Community information meetings will be held at both churches next 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 Don't forget the Senior Friendship Group's next morning tea which will follow a 10:00am Mass of Anointing on Thursday 19 September at St Therese's. Morning tea will be in PACE after Mass.

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.

VOLUNTEERING

SAFEGUARDING AUDIT AND UPDATE OF PARISH RECORDS The Safeguarding Team have completed an audit of Safeguarding records and will now issue letters to volunteers who need to take action. The letters will contain helpful information about the steps you need to take to become compliant. If you are fully compliant you won't receive a letter. Thanks to the many volunteers who have responded to our call to action.

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 The [Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct](#) must be read and signed upon commencement with the parish. Volunteers are required to re-sign the Code of Conduct every three years. We encourage volunteers to sign the Code of Conduct through the online [Safeguarding Essentials Training platform](#) This may be done without completing the training.

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 14 & 15 SEPTEMBER (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	Lynette Russo	Maria Cricri
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/s4m3j3l0>

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

My First Holy Communion

I clasp my hands, then kneel and pray on this, my first Communion Day.

I ask you, Jesus, to watch me grow, and teach me all that I need to know.

Protect me, daily, from all things bad, and fill my heart with all things glad.

And if I ever lose my way, please guide me back when I kneel and pray.


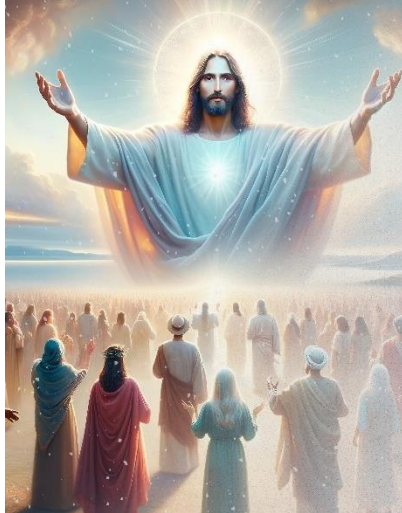
Senior Friendship Group Morning Tea

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



Migrant Youth Festival

Celebrating the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

“God walks with His people”

29 September 2024 · Cathedral Hall, ACU Melbourne

- 9:00 am** Registration, Keynote Address, A Conversation with Archbishop Peter, Group Activities, Lunch and Concert at Cathedral Hall, ACU
- 1:30 pm** Pilgrim Walk from ACU to St Patrick's Cathedral
- 2:00 pm** Rosary Procession around the Cathedral
- 3:00 pm** Migrant and Refugee Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and migrant chaplains of the Archdiocese of Melbourne



Scan the QR code to register or visit trybooking.com/CSAYK
Registrations close **EXTENDED UNTIL 15 SEPTEMBER!**

Tickets **\$30**



The Migrant Youth Festival is supported by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



PARISH CALENDAR

Weekend 7 & 8 September	Students present as candidates for Confirmation at OLN Sacrament of First Eucharist Masses at St Therese's	All Masses All Masses
Sunday 8 September	Safeguarding Sunday	
Monday 9 September	Parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the Christie household	
Tuesday 10 September	Mass at Raelene Boyle Village	11:00am
Wednesday 11 September	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Funeral Mass for Karen Wheeler at OLN	9:00am 1:00pm
Thursday 12 September	R U OK? Day Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room Rosary & Funeral Mass for Pat Monteleone at OLN	9:30am 10:30am 12:00pm
Friday 13 September	Whole School Mass at St Therese's (Season of Creation)	10:00am
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 Des Magennis at St Therese's	10:30am 7:00pm 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	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am
Friday 20 September	Term 3 ends	
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

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.





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.

Do you have questions?

No doubt parishioners will have questions about the proposed amalgamation.

Fr John and the Parish Leadership Team hope to address these at two upcoming community meetings.

Session 1: Our Lady of the Nativity Church
Saturday 14 September after 5:00pm Mass

Session 2: St Therese's Church
Sunday 15 September after 10:30am Mass

There will be Q&A time at the information sessions, but we do request that parishioners submit questions in writing by Sunday 8 September so the PLT can give considered and informed responses.

These questions will also help us to put together a FAQ sheet for those who cannot attend.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the parish office either by email: essendon@cam.org.au or parishioners can drop notes into the office or the collection plates next weekend.

Please include your contact details on any questions submitted.