



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



26 & 27 October 2024: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9 A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I shall lead them back in mercy – both the blind and the lame.

The Lord says this: Shout with joy for Jacob! Hail the chief of nations! Proclaim! Praise! Shout: The Lord has saved his people, the remnant of Israel! See, I will bring them back from the land of the North and gather them from the far ends of earth; all of them: the blind and the lame, women with child, women in labour: a great company returning here. They had left in tears, I will comfort them as I lead them back; I will guide them to streams of water, by a smooth path where they will not stumble. For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born son.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death, and brought us life through his gospel. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Master, grant that I may see.

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

INTERCESSIONS

Brothers and sisters, as servants of God, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

That the Church will guide all people in the great commandments of love for God and for our neighbour.

Let us pray for political and local leaders: may they work with each other for the good of the people whom they are called to serve.

Let us pray for people struggling to cope with an ever-increasing cost of living and employment insecurity: may they know encouragement and support as they care for their families.

We pray for the children 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 those who are ill especially: James Heath.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: Ethne Mallon, Cherie Hardwick, John Penticoss, Mary O'Rourke, Fernanda Brandi, David Ireland and Finbarr Downey; And for those who we remember at this time, especially Emmanuel Balia, Joan Kennedy, Noel Dunne, Lucy Kavanagh, Bruno Martino, Pasquale & Concetta Monteleone, Margaret Moloney, Felice Falcone, Antonio & Caterina Legudi.

Lord God, hear our prayers and help us to remain steadfast in our love for you and others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

WHICH PRIEST WHERE? This weekend Fr John to say all weekend Masses at St Therese's while Fr Tony Feeney will preside at all weekend Masses at OLN. Next weekend Fr John will say all weekend Masses at OLN plus the 9:00am Sunday Mass at St Therese's while Fr Tony presides at St Therese's for the 6:00pm Saturday and Sunday 10:30am Masses.



SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP CHRISTMAS LUNCH The annual SFG Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday 5 December at 12 noon in PACE. The cost is \$25 per person and include a two-course set-menu meal and entry into the lucky door prize draw. Please note that we keep costs low by providing a set menu and alternate meals are limited to a vegetarian option only – which must be requested at the time of booking.

TO BOOK: Pay cash or card at the Parish Office by Wednesday 27 November. Please note that it can be difficult to accommodate late bookings and almost impossible to cater for walk-ins so if you intend on coming to the lunch please book in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. The annual Christmas lunch is a fun social gathering for our senior parishioners. All are welcome

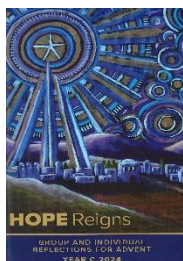
MASSES OF REMEMBRANCE Our annual All Saints/All Souls Masses of Remembrance will be held at both our churches on Friday 1 November: OLN church at 5:00pm and St Therese's church at 7:00pm.

BLESSING OF ST THERESE'S MEMORIAL GARDEN Our Memorial and Precious Angels Gardens will be blessed on Sunday 3rd November after 10.30 am Mass.

BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE FOR NOVEMBER Submissions for the books are now closed as we set about inputting all the new names and getting ready to print. The 2024 editions of the books will be on display in our churches from next Friday 1 November and will remain there until the end of November. We try our best to transcribe the handwritten names into the book but inevitably there are some errors. If you find an error or misspelling, please let the office know.

NOVEMBER OFFERING ENVELOPES are available from entrance tables now. These offering envelopes can be given directly to Fr John, dropped at the office or put in collection plates.

NOVEMBER MASS OF ANOINTING There will be a Mass of Anointing on Thursday 21 November at 10:00am at St Therese's. Following on from that Mass our Senior Friendship Group will host their monthly morning tea in PACE.



ADVENT REFLECTIONS BOOKS FOR SALE This year's Advent resource, "Hope Reigns" invites us to explore more deeply what it means to have eyes to see and ears to hear Emmanuel, God with us. It will clarify our vision, so that we can welcome anew the wonder of the Christ child who brings heaven to earth and opens the door to the extraordinary gift of life everlasting. "Hope Reigns" is an inspiring Advent resource that will also help us to welcome a new Jubilee year, beginning on 24 December, where Pope Francis has invited us to become "Pilgrims of Hope". This Advent resource has been developed for both individual prayer and small groups. Advent small groups are an opportunity to gather with together to share life, faith and to pray with one another. Individual copies of the book are for sale from the parish office for \$5 per copy

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.

SIGNS OF HOPE - PEOPLE OF FAITH Essendon Parishes present singer-guitarist Peter Kearney's concert-reflection on Sunday 24 November from 2:00pm until 3:30pm at Our Lady of Nativity Church. Peter's hymns and songs, published in fifteen albums, include 'Fill My House', 'The Beatitudes' and 'Where is Your Song my Lord?'. Some of his compositions are included in the 'As One Voice' hymnal. No bookings required. Entry is free.

STONE PILLARS AT ST THERESE'S AND CHURCH ACCESS The stone pillars at the main driveway at St Therese's must be removed and rebuilt to make them safe. The stone wall is protected under planning Heritage Overlays and the pillars must be rebuilt as they were originally erected. Works will commence this Sunday 27 October and will impact driveway/church access for the at least one week, possibly for two weeks depending on the complexity of the job.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS Are made from wheat starch and water with a gluten content of 6.2 parts per million.

SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS DEADLINE Friday 1 November is the deadline set for all volunteers to make sure they have met all the necessary Safeguarding requirements in terms of certification and training. As of that date, if you haven't completed the Safeguarding requirements, you will need to pause your involvement as a volunteer until you have completed them. Please reach out to the office if you need help. Scan the QR code on the next page to go to the online training website.

SAFEGUARDING

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. To apply for a WWC check please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

Requirement #2: Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct: You can sign the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct through the online Safeguarding Essentials Training platform (without completing the training).

Requirement #3: Safeguarding Essentials Training: Takes approximately 45 minutes. Website link: <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fs%2F>

RESERVE COMPUTER TIME AT THE PARISH OFFICE You can use a parish office computer to go through the training at your own pace and with the support of parish office staff. Please contact the parish office to book. We are here to help!

MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 2 & 3 NOVEMBER (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/s4m3j3l0		

ESSENDON PARISHES

SAFEGUARDING

ALL 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?



SCAN ME FOR DETAILS

YES

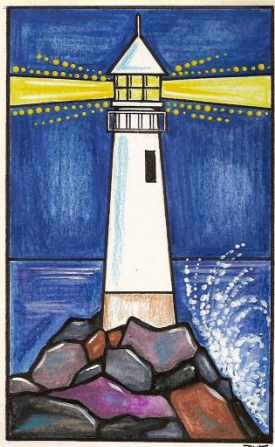
To maintain accurate records ALL volunteers must be registered as parishioners
 If you are a volunteer but not a registered parishioner please contact the parish office ASAP

SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Christmas Lunch
 THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER
 PACE FUNCTION ROOM
 12:00pm

\$25 SET MENU
 Includes:
 Two-course Christmas lunch
 Glass of wine (or soft drink)
 Entry into the lucky door prize draw

NUMBERS ARE LIMITED AND PAYMENT IS REQUIRED AT TIME OF BOOKING
 PAY CASH OR CARD AT THE PARISH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER

SIGNS of HOPE



PEOPLE of FAITH

A CONCERT-REFLECTION WITH PETER KEARNEY
Songs & stories of people who made a difference

Sunday 24th November, 2.00-3.30pm
 Our Lady of Nativity Church
 31 Fawkner St.
 ABERFELDIE
 Free concert! donations welcome
 Light refreshments at interval



"Through the gift of his songwriting, Peter always finds a way to present the themes of human life in a lively and beautiful way." (Terry Veling)

"Peter has the special gift of making the stories and message of Jesus relevant to our modern daily life." (Fr Val Patterson MSC)

\$5 each

HOPE Reigns

Sunday Reflections for Advent 2024
 written by Br Damien Price cfc
 for Individuals and Groups
 Available to purchase from the parish office

PARISH DIARY

Saturday 26 October	Gardening Working Bee at St Therese's	9:30am
Sunday 27 October	Stone works commence at St Therese's church Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 28 October	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Sequeira household	
Tuesday 29 October	Mass at Raelene Boyle Village	11:00am
Wednesday 30 October	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Requiem Mass for Finbarr Downey at St Therese's	9:00am 11:00am
Thursday 31 October	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Friday 1 November	All Saints' Day: November Month of Remembrance Begins Books of Remembrance are on display in our churches All Saints Day Mass at St Therese's (Whole School) All Saints/All Souls Mass of Remembrance at OLN All Saints/All Souls Mass of Remembrance at St Therese's	10:00am 5:00pm 7:00pm
Saturday 2 November	All Souls' Day Men's Choir singing at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
Sunday 3 November	Blessing of the Memorial Garden at St Therese's	11:30am
Monday 4 November	Parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the DeLorenzo household	
Tuesday 5 November	Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday: Parish office closed	
Wednesday 6 November	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 7 November	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
9 & 10 November	Pastoral Care Appeal (Catholic Care for prison ministry)	
Sunday 10 November	Prison Ministry Sunday	
Monday 11 November	Remembrance Day Statue of Our Lady moves to the Musquitta household Mass at St Therese's for Remembrance Day	10:00am
Wednesday 13 November	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 14 November	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Sunday 17 November	World Day of the Poor 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
Monday 18 November	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Xerri household	
Wednesday 20 November	World Children's Day Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd)	9:00am 10:45am

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

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.”

Volunteers are required to read and acknowledge the Code of Conduct every three years. There is a downloadable pdf version of the code on Archdiocese website here: [Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct](#)

Requirement #3: Safeguarding Essentials Training

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

Website link: [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>

Training: <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fs%2F>

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 reach out!

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 Fawcner 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 Fawcner 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 Fawcner 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).