



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



**5 & 6 October 2024: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**First Reading:** Genesis 2:18-24 A reading from the book of Genesis

*They were two in one flesh.*

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed: 'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.' This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

**Responsorial Psalm:** May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 10:2-16 A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

*What God has joined together, no one must divide.*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

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## INTERCESSIONS

*Sisters and brothers, in thanksgiving and prayer, let us bring our intentions before God.*

That the Church be a lasting sign of forgiveness and healing.

That leaders and governments bring peace to all citizens, through fair laws and just decisions,

That like the Lord's vineyard, all land and harvests will bring forth plenty.

As the Season of Creation came to a close this week, may we carry forward the call to care for our common home in all our actions and decisions, in word and deed, throughout the rest of this year.

May God bless our teachers and grant them the strength and wisdom to continue their invaluable work. Together, as families and communities, let us support and cherish these remarkable individuals who dedicate their lives to educating and inspiring our future generations.

We pray those who are ill especially Kath Maslin and James Heath.

We pray for our own special needs.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: Edmond Sait, Con Flaim, Toby Sharpe, Dawn Watson, Michael Dunphy and Benjamin Carthew. And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Noel O'Brien, Russell Hande, Pat Kirby, Maria Matiazzi, Dorothy Jukic and Maria Di Grazia.

*Loving God, hear our prayers and help us to acclaim Christ with thanksgiving and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

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**WHICH PRIEST WHERE?** This 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 Tom Cleary will preside at Saturday 5:00pm Mass and Fr Tony Feeney will preside at 10:00am Sunday Mass. Next weekend, the plan (at time of publishing) is for Fr John to say 5:00pm Mass at OLN and 6:00pm Mass at St Therese's on Saturday and then 9:00am Mass at St Therese's and 10:00am Mass at OLN on Sunday while Fr Tony Feeney will preside at 10:30am Mass at St Therese's.

**OLN PARISH SUPPORT ENVELOPES** are now available for collection from OLN church foyer. They are arranged alphabetically by residential street name.

*Dear friends at Our Lady of the Nativity,*

*As time goes around, it's time for the next distribution of Thanksgiving envelopes. This note is to acknowledge your ongoing financial contributions. On behalf of the parish community, as parish priest, I thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.*

*Our churches are in need of constant attention to maintenance, and we are very fortunate to have many volunteers in both parish communities, helping with liturgy, order and external appearance of the surrounds. There is no doubt though, that financial contributions are required in the coming year as we will need to install a new sound system at OLN church as well as undertaking some necessary maintenance including painting the external timber of the church.*

*We are moving forward in terms of working together, with the likelihood of parish amalgamation in the near future and the intention to maintain both parish communities with regular weekend Masses and general services, administered from the one office, as has been the case since January 2023, when I was appointed as parish priest at OLN.*

*With best wishes and thanks.*

*John Hannon PP*

**LITURGY OF THE WORD REPLACES MORNING MASS** This Tuesday 8 October, 10:00am at St Therese's.

**OFFICE CLOSURE** The parish office will also be closed on Wednesday 9 October due to staff leave.

**MEN'S COFFEE GROUP: LUNCH AT THE LINC** The Men's Coffee Group will hold a lunch on Wednesday 16 October from 12:00pm until 2:00pm at the Lincolnshire Arms Hotel, Essendon. RSVP to Kevin McCartney on 0418 565 225 or email kevin.mccartney@bigpond.com by Wednesday 9 October.

**SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP MORNING TEA** will next be held in PACE on Thursday 17 October from 10:30am

**ALPHA POSTPONEMENT** The Alpha Program scheduled to begin in October has been postponed until 2025.

**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. There are also paper and pen submission sheets in our churches on entry tables.

**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.

**REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER APPEAL** Envelopes are still available and can be added to any collection over the next couple of weekends. 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. Please note that donations to this appeal are not tax deductible.

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

**SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS DEADLINE A HUGE THANKS** to all volunteers who have completed Safeguarding training and updated your Working with Children Check. So many volunteers have taken action which is very encouraging for the Safeguarding team. Due to unexpected staff leave we will extend the deadline for compliance to the end of October. This means that as of Friday 1 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!

**RESERVE COMPUTER TIME AT THE PARISH OFFICE** If you are comfortable using a computer but don't have access at home, 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 a day and time.

**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. Completion of Safeguarding Training at another organisation does not make you exempt from CAM training. Check our ad on the next page!

**MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 12 & 13 OCTOBER (WEEK 2)**

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Georgina Kucera & John Harris	Kath Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	Gerald Mullen	Mark Donahoo
St Therese's 6.00pm	John O'Connor	Tony Proctor
St Therese's 9.00am	Lynette Russo	Tony Belcastro & David Gloury
St Therese's 10.30am	Lucy Angelico	Rosa Pierorazio & Marg Moore

Adults: <https://sundayreadingsathomeyearb.weebly.com/th4g0h3lw.html>

Children: <https://www.yearbprayingwithchildren.org/s4m3j310>



Senior Friendship Group

# Spring Racing Morning Tea

PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR PARISHES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

Morning Tea in PACE FUNCTION ROOM

Thursday 17 October from 10:30am

All welcome



# OLN & St Therese's MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

## Lunch at the Linc

Wednesday 16 October  
12:00pm - 2:00pm

Lincolnshire Arms Hotel

To book contact Kevin McCartney on 0418 565 225 by Wednesday 9 October

**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**

**DO THE SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO YOU?**

**NO MATTER HOW YOU VOLUNTEER IN THE PARISH THE ANSWER IS YES**

**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

- 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 Ts)
- Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group
- Sacristan ~ Senior Friendship Group
- Special Projects ~ Wedding Helper

Friday 4 October	St Francis of Assisi Feast Day Parish office closed Requiem Mass for Con Flaim at St Therese's	10:00am
Saturday 5 October	Fr Tom Cleary 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 Funeral of Michael Dunphy at St Therese's	10:00am
Tuesday 8 October	Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's	10:00am
Wednesday 9 October	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Parish office closed Funeral of Dawn Watson at OLN	9:00am 1:00pm
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
Friday 11 October	Whole school Mass at St Therese's (St Therese of Lisieux) Funeral of Benjamin Carthew at St Therese's	10:00am 1:00pm
Sunday 13 October	Life, Marriage and Family Sunday	
Monday 14 October	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Rodrigues household	
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
Weekend 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
Monday 21 October	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Asher household	
Wednesday 23 October	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 24 October	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Sunday 27 October	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	9:00am

**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.*

# 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).



*We proclaim a crucified Christ*

1Cor1.23

4 October 2024

*Letter to Clergy and Laity of the Archdiocese of Melbourne*

My dear friends,

Greetings to you, in Christ Jesus, Prince of Peace.

As we approach the first anniversary of the 7 October terrorising and evil attack by Hamas on Israel, we have seen from a distance the frightening and destructive consequences that have unfolded, involving many countries and more importantly, many peoples – families, the elderly, the young, the displaced.

The lands of Israel, Lebanon, and the Palestinian territories are our Holy Lands, and it is heartbreaking to see where Jesus walked, talked, died and rose, once again on the precipice of an abyss.

Recently, I met with Cardinal Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. His wise words remain with me: a “solution to conflict does not equate with peace”. Rather, peace comes through the speaking of truth and the fostering of trust.

Similar thoughts were expressed in this year’s Social Justice Statement, of the Australian Bishops:

*All of this points to a crisis of truth which creates in turn the crisis of trust lying at the heart of the world’s current convulsions; because without trust there can be no peace... We say: speak truth to build trust and build trust to make peace.*

In the conflict zones hatred is obscuring truth and hindering peace. This is something we can never give oxygen to in our own country. No to war, and no to the hatred of peoples. Whilst we might feel helpless at what is unfolding overseas, we can ensure that we live truthfully, and work for dialogue and reconciliation at home. As Christians, peace among people, and respect of peoples, must be our choice.

I join with Pope Francis and my brother Bishops in calling for a day of prayer, fasting and reconciliation for Peace this coming Monday, 7 October, the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. I encourage you to take up this call in your family and localities. I also ask that our faith communities give expression in prayer to this call during our worship this Sunday, rather than protest in anger.

May our prayers be offered in earnest to Blessed Mary, Mother of Hope and true Lady of Israel, of Palestine and of Lebanon, so that through her intercession the God of all mercy and consolation will bring about a reconciled world.

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**  
Archbishop of Melbourne



## A Prayer for Peace

Lord our God,  
Father of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and Father of all peoples,  
Who in the cross of Your Son  
and through the gift of His own life,  
at great cost You wished to destroy  
the wall of enmity and hostility  
that separates peoples and makes us enemies:  
Send into our hearts  
the gift of the Holy Spirit,  
that He may purify us from every feeling  
of violence, hatred and revenge,  
enlighten us to understand  
the irrepressible dignity  
of every human person,  
and inflame us to the point of consumption  
for a peaceful and reconciled world  
in truth and justice,  
in love and freedom.

Almighty and eternal God,  
in Your hands are the hopes of men and women  
and the rights of every people:  
Assist with Your wisdom those who govern us,  
so that, with Your help,  
they will become sensitive to the sufferings of the poor  
and of those who suffer the consequences  
of violence and war;  
may they promote the common good and lasting peace  
in our region  
and throughout the earth.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope,  
obtain the gift of peace  
for the Holy Land that gave birth to you  
and for the whole world. Amen.

*Cardinal Pizzaballa*  
*Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem*