

**Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 24:1-3**

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

**Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8**

*Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4**

*Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him

that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation Psalm 84:8**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Mark 13:33-37**

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon Psalm 84:13**

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



**Next week's readings**

- First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11
- Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8
- Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
- Gospel: Mark 1:1-8



# St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

The Catholic Church in the Dandenong Ranges

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160  
 Phone: 97542141  
 Office Hours: 9.30am—2pm Tuesday to Friday  
 Internet: [pol.org.au/belgrave](http://pol.org.au/belgrave)

*The Parish of St Thomas More and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: [www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)*

**Our Parish Vision Statement:**  
*We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service.....*

CHURCH CENTRES		St. Joseph's Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald- Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave 17 Terry Avenue,	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B - 2nd/3rd December, 2023**

### **REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Today's readings contain several images: the faithfulness of those who suffer, even as they lament their predicament; the admonition to watch and wait; the expectation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. As trustees of the one who is coming, we live in the 'in between' time of ambiguity and hope. The placement of these readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then moves beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord.

Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. Some people wait to be released from suffering, others await the second coming of Christ. Waiting saps our energies and stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder: 'What should I be doing?' The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment.



<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Dec03/0/RefDiBer>

### ***The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023 —December***

***For persons with disabilities*** — *We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.*

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2023>

## ***WE ARE A CHILD SAFETY PARISH AND WE BELIEVE IN CHILD SAFETY.***

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
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 87518112.  
**Phone:** Mirani Perera  
 97542141  
**Parish Secretary:** belgrave@cam.org.au  
**Parish Office:** Jeanette Wicks 97542759  
**Sacraments :** Monica Rayner  
**Child Safety Contacts:** Chairperson — Evie  
 Sue Luxford  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**Monbulk:** David Bhoynz  
**Belgrave:** Evie and Irene Reed  
**Gembrook:**  
**Emerald:**

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**  
 Principal: Declan McDermott  
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## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Many people across the world who have died due to natural calamities and ongoing Wars. May their souls rest in peace.

**Anniversaries:** Rosemary Pickthall, Arogya Mary, Tony Grieve, Rose Smyth, John McLaughlan, Kevin Hogan, Mark Broomhead, Teresa Findlay, Marie Russie, Georia Smith, La Croix, John Hinsburgen, David Makanani, Gerry Kogelman, Gavin Hare, Helen Gillick, Shaun Fitzmaurice, Sr. Gertrude Maria

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Peter Lawrence, Stephen Billington, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper, John Barber, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Champion, Cameron DiCasio, Jack Weir, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Pat McCarrick, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Maureen Lyons, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Joshua McQuade, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

- **Sick List: If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 97542141.**

## **Reading Roster - 3rd December**

**Patrick and Maureen Coyne**

## **Church Cleaning roster**

**Lyn Burger & Bob Fitzsimon**

## ***Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine, plea for Peace in the Middle East and world peace***

Let's redouble our prayers for a resolution for the Ukraine conflict and plea for Peace in the Middle East. The candlelight vigil returns next Wednesday, being the first Wednesday of the Month. Let's redouble our prayers for a resolution to this conflict and peace in the world.

**7 pm**            **Mass**  
**7.30pm**        **Private prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**7.45pm**        **Rosary.**  
**8.05pm**        **Benediction.**  
**8.15pm**        **Finish.**



## **Finance Administrator**

### **St Simon's Parish Rowville & St Jude's Parish Scoresby**

St Simon's Parish in Rowville & St Jude Parish, Scoresby (working across two parishes) are seeking to hire a Finance Administrator

to actively take responsibility for the day to day financial and asset management tasks and the management of the payroll for the Parish. This will be a part-time role, working 3 days per week (days and times are flexible).

### **For a position description and to apply visit:**

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies/stewardship-administrator-st-simons-parish>

**Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human**

**Resources at** [hradmin@cam.org.au](mailto:hradmin@cam.org.au)

## **Confession for Advent season**

**Belgrave** - Friday and Saturday after mass (9.45am – 10.30am)

**Gembrook** - 17th December - After mass ( 10am— 11am)

**Monbulk** - 10th/17th December - 10.30am— 11am

**Emerald** — 16th December —5pm—5.50pm

## **Thank you    Thank you    Thank you**

Once again the people from this parish have proven their incredible generosity with our fundraising effort of last Sunday.

Two things first: A special vote of thanks for young Pierre who entertained us so brilliantly with his singing and his ukulele playing. When it was just about time to pack up, he came to me with both fists full of money. Close to \$70.00.

WELL DONE PIERRE and thank you

Secondly the Raffle. This raised \$75.00

Second prize (The fob watch clock) was won by Josie Walsh and .....

First prize (the Christmas hanger) was won by Una Steel.

Congratulations to both of you.

Now the big news: So far (including raffle and Pierre's effort) we have reached \$11,640.00 There will hopefully be bit more to add after Saturday's Mass at 6.00 pm at Emerald.

I am truly humbled by everybody's willingness to help in whatever way that was possible for you. And all I can say once again is THANK YOU !!!!!!!

**Marianne Kuyper**

### Christmas Mass Times



#### **Christmas Eve Mass (Sunday 24th December )**

##### **St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave**

5.30pm Carols

6.00pm Children Mass (**Salesian Priest**)

11.00pm Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)

##### **St. Joseph's Church Emerald**

6.30pm (**Fr. Cruz**)

##### **St. Paul's Church, Monbulk**

7.30pm Carols

8.00pm Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)

#### **Christmas Day Mass ( Monday 25th December )**

##### **Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook**

9.00am (Fr. Cruz)

##### **St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave**

9.00am (**Salesian Priest**)

##### **St. Paul's Church, Monbulk**

11.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

*Christmas Crib will be on display at St. Thomas More church, from this Sunday with some additions from new parishioners. A basket for nonperishable goods for St Vincent de Paul will be available as well as a box for gift cards you may wish to purchase. This will be under the Christmas tree. These will be distributed to those families in greatest need and can be used for them to purchase items for their own families.*

Dear Members of the Belgrave Parish Community

#### **AN IMPORTANT NOTICE relating to the PARISH**

The Mass centre at the top of Mount Dandenong, St Clare's Catholic Church, has not been used as a Mass centre for quite a number of years. It was closed because the number of people attending each week was minimal and simply put, it was not practical to continue to have Masses said there. The church and surrounding grounds, however, still remain an asset of the Parish, which must be maintained, insured and kept to a building standard.

In a time when parish funds continue to dwindle and the maintenance costs of our other four Mass centres continue to rise, the Parish finance committee has taken advice and would like to proceed with the realisation of this asset so that it can generate **future funds for the benefit of the Parish.**

At the moment three options are under consideration.

**Option one** is to enter into a long-term business (property) lease for St Clares, use the rental income to then take out a loan to build houses /flats on existing parish land in Emerald for renting to parishioners, which in turn would return a long-term income for the parish.

**Option two** is to use the income from the Clare's Church to help maintain our Parish.

**Option three** would be to sell St Clare's outright and invest the money realised to provide a future income for the Parish.

Before these options can be considered, however, the Archbishop must relegate the Church for profane use (say it can be used for non -religious purposes). The first step in seeking such a process is to demonstrate that the Parish as a whole supports the relegation.

The Parish finance committee is therefore seeking your support to undertake a process. We ask you to complete a simple survey which contains three questions:

Q1. Are you in favour of having St Clares Church **being** relegated for profane (ordinary) use

Q2. Are you in favour of a long-term lease to provide a future income for the Parish

Q3. Are you in favour of selling St Clares Church to provide an income for the Parish? This will be a longer process.

You can respond to these questions via one of several ways.

**Filling in the form overleaf and leave this in the collection plant during the next three sundays**

**OR** You can complete a simple survey via a google form, [St Clares Catholic Church Parish Survey](#)

**OR** You can email your responses to Philip Morison at [pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au](mailto:pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au)

**(Do you have enough time to take calls on this. – that is why have added the first option ??**  
You can text or ring Philip Morison on 0400202797 should you wish to give a verbal response.

We intend closing this process by **4pm on Monday 18 December 2023** and we would appreciate your support.

Thank You

**Philip A Morison**

**On behalf of Fr Cruz and Anthony Tesselaar ( Chair of the finance committee.)**