

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

2 Peter 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where

righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia! . Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mark 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

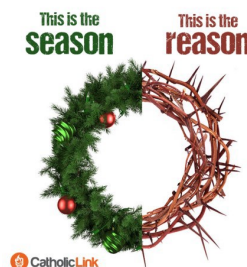
The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Baruch 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



Next week's readings

First Reading:	Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11
Responsorial Psalm:	Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10
Second Reading:	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel:	John 1:6-8. 19-28



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

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

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, Belgrave	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B - 9th/10th December, 2023

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.



There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Dec10/0/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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 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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ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Paul Daniel Lucas, the husband of Francis and the father of Katherina, Alexander, Damien and Mark (Late Robert).

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

- **Funeral mass for late Paul Daniel Lucas will be held on Monday, 11th December at St. Thomas More church Belgrave at 10.30am.**
- **Burial on Tuesday, 12th December at 11.00am at Cheltenham Cemetery. (Reserve rd, in the Catholic section.**

Anniversaries:

Leo Walsh, Paul Granieri, Terry McDermott, Dorothy ward.

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 Campion, 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 - 10th December

Mary Anne Ferraro and Mia Jansen

Please see below an update to current vacant roles listed on our Melbourne Catholic website.

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: [Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic](https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies/melbourne-catholic)

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at hadmin@cam.org.au



Happy 17th Anniversary of your priestly ordination. Fr. Cruz!



Confession for Advent Season

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

23rd December 11.30am - 1.30 pm

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

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

Emerald — 16th December —5pm—5.50pm

St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal.

There will be a third collection on 17th December, to assist St. Vincent de Paul Society do their work in the community.



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 hadmin@cam.org.au

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

(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.)