

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

A reading from the second book of Chronicles 2

Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6

Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Ephesians 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved,

through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

John

John 3:14-21

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 121: 3-4

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

Next week's readings

First reading	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Responsorial psalm	Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12
Second reading	Hebrews 5:7-9
Gospel	John 12:20-33



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B - 9th/10th March, 2024

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Pope Francis points out that Jesus' answer to Nicodemus in today's Gospel 'disrupts our image of God'. From Jesus' reference to both Father and Son, the Pope says, we learn that God – Father, Son, and Spirit – is 'a God of communion'.

Moreover, we are invited to share in this 'communion of love'! As the Pope suggests, we can recall this invitation every time we make the sign of the cross. 'By tracing the cross on our body,' he says, 'we remind ourselves how much God loved us, to the point of giving his life for us; and we repeat to ourselves that his love envelops us completely, from top to bottom, from left to right, like an embrace that never abandons us.'

As receivers of such love, we are called to also become sharers of it. As well as reminding ourselves that we are loved, the Pope says, when making the sign of the cross we also 'commit ourselves to bear witness to God-as-love, creating communion in his name.' Flowing from this wonderful image the Pope asks us to reflect: 'do we bear witness to God-as-love? ... do our communities bear witness to this? ... Do we always leave the door open, do we know how to welcome everyone – and I emphasise, everyone – as brothers and sisters?' After all, the Crucified One was sent 'not to condemn the world' but to save it. A person can condemn themselves only by closing the door to themselves or others, refusing to believe in God's love. Nobody who approaches the door, however tentatively, can be guilty of making that mistake.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Mar10/0/RefNickB>



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son....

JOHN 3:16, NIV

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2024 — Month of March

For the new martyrs - We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2024>

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

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

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
 Principal: Declan McDermott
 Phone: 9754-4444
 Email: principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au
www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
 Principal: Nick Frederiksen

Phone: 9756 7201
 Email: nfrederiksen@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au
www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths:

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

Anniversaries:

Chris Madden, Sr. Joyce White, Angela Casey, Francis Kuyper, Richard Rossa.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Vinesh Prasad, Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper John Barber, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, Cameron DiCasio, Jack Weir, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Rebecca Jane Atkinson, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Pat McCarrick, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Maureen Lyons, Ingvyn 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 March

Sharon Bennett & Mia Jansen

There will be a mid-Lent prayer and reflection offered at St Joseph's Church in Emerald.

It will run for approximately 45 minutes and will offer opportunity to reflect, pray and dialogue on Lent and our Journey with Christ.

All are welcome on **13th and 20th of March at 7pm**

PRAYER AND REFLECTION



For details relating to Baptisms, Marriages & Anointing of the Sick, please contact the parish office.

A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend is for YOU...

"Live Your Best Married Life in Love"

Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse.

This weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living.

Every married couple deserves a Marriage Encounter weekend!!

The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details

Date: 12-14 April, 2024 in Melbourne

BOOK NOW

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au



Fourth Sunday of Lent 9 & 10 March

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Mercy Melbourne

(A day of prayer and reconciliation)

St Thomas More Church, Belgrave on 19th March

- 6.00 pm Holy Mass (Mass of Solemnity of St Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.)
- 6.45 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and silent adoration.
- 7.30 pm Praying the Holy Rosary followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 8.45 pm Benediction
- 9.00 pm Closing of the holy hour with a Hymn to Our Lady.

N.B

A priest will be available for confession in the confessional 7.30 to 8.40 pm.



Sacrament of Confirmation - St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

Sacrament of Confirmation for students attending Non-Catholic Schools.

2024 Sacramental Program for students, not attending Catholic Schools:

Confirmation – 18 May 12 noon at St Thomas More's Belgrave

Reconciliation – 14 September St Thomas More's Belgrave

Eucharist – 15 September 11 AM at St Paul's in Monbulk

Preparation classes for Confirmation begins on Tuesday 16 April (for 5 weeks) at 4.30 pm in St Joseph's church in Emerald.

Preparation classes or Reconciliation begins on Wednesday 21 August (for 4 weeks) at 4.30 at St Joseph's church in Emerald.

Preparation classes for Eucharist begins on Tuesday 13 of August (for 5 weeks) at 4.30 at St Joseph's church in Emerald.

Parents may choose to enrol their children in both Eucharist and Reconciliation if they wish to.

To enrol, please contact the parish office during office hours on or before 21st March.

Telephone: 97542141

Email: belgrave@cam.org.au

Reconciliation and Station of the cross in Lent

St. Joseph's church Emerald

Station of the cross Saturday at 5pm—5.30pm

Reconciliation 5.30pm– 6pm (9th and 23rd March)

St. Paul's Church Monbulk

Reconciliation 10.30am—11.00am
(10th March)

Sacred heart Church Gembrook

Reconciliation 7.50am - 8.50 am (17th March)

St. Thomas More church Belgrave

Reconciliation 19th March 7.30am – 8.45am

(Mercy Melbourne)

Saturday 9.45am—10.15am

(9th and 16th March)

Station of the cross every Friday at 7pm at St. Thomas more church Belgrave.



Baptism

Let us welcome **Jaxson Millard and Jasper Cameron** into our faith community. May they be richly blessed throughout their lives constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.



Liturgy committee meeting for Holy Week

Welcome all musicians and liturgy people there will be a meeting on Wednesday 13 March at 7.30 at Belgrave Presbytery to discuss and co-ordinate preparations for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services. Anyone welcome we need volunteers please for music, readings, washing of feet, special ministers or to help in any way.

Would be grateful if you could help.

Sue Luxford



Thursday of the Lord's Supper—28th March 7.30pm at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave — Washing of the Feet and Eucharist.

8.30 pm Solemn Reservation. Adoration.

Good Friday - 29th March:

10.00am. The Stations of the cross at Sumava Czech Centre, 46, Locks Way, Belgrave South. (Please DO NOT bring any food) but bring an umbrella if rain is forecast.

3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord with Adoration of the Holy Cross and Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church, Monbulk.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night —Saturday 30th March: 6.30pm at St. Thomas More Church, Reynolds Lane, Belgrave.

Blessing of the Fire. followed by the vigil Mass.

Sunday of the Resurrection — Easter Sunday 31st March:

6.30am -St. Joseph's Church, Emerald.

Blessing of the Fire, Holy Eucharist.

Please note also.... that breakfast will be served after the **Easter Dawn Mass at St. Joseph's church. All welcome**

9.00am - Easter day mass at Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook.

9.00am—Easter day mass St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave.

11.00am—Easter day mass at St. Paul's Church, Monbulk.