

**Entrance Antiphon**

**Psalm 87:3**

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

**Wisdom 6:12-16**

*Wisdom is found by those who look for it.*

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2**

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Matthew 24:42. 44**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**Matthew 25:1-13**

*Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*

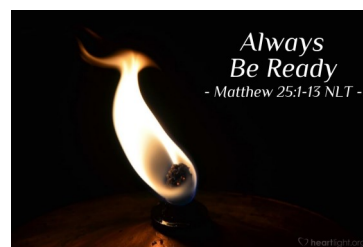
Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon**

**Cf Psalm 22:1-2**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.



**Next week's readings**

First Reading:

Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel:

Matthew 25:14-30



# 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, 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	

## **THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 11th/12th November, 2023**

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

The early Christians thought that all their questions about death had been answered with the resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, when loyal Christians began to die, not only did their old questions come back, but also they were plagued with new and difficult ones. Was it possible that those loyal Christians had not been loyal after all? Or worse, were the promises made by Jesus empty promises? No! Paul assures us. It is all true. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again, and all the faithful will be joined with him. How it will happen, we do not know. When it will happen, we do not know. That it will happen, we are sure.

The wisdom that we have culled from life becomes the treasury from which we draw the prudence and insight needed to negotiate life's paradoxes. It throws light on our strengths and on our weaknesses; it enables us to discern what is important and what is not; it directs us to bring extra oil in our lamps. Life and the wisdom that we have acquired through it, have taught us that we can indeed trust the promises of God. They have been fulfilled in the past, and wisdom assures us that they will be fulfilled in the future. It is wisdom that cautions us to be vigilant, to be ready to adjust our plans. It is wisdom that prepares us for the night watches of life. It is wisdom that instructs us to be ready at all times.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Nov12/0/RefDiBer>



### ***The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023 — Month of November***

**For the Pope** - *We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

<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  
*Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au*  
 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  
 Phone: 9754-4444  
 Email: [principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)

**ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**  
 Principal: Michael Watt  
 Phone: 9756 7201  
 Email: [principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](http://www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)

## **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:** Sebastiano Granieri, Jim Goodie, James Perry, Paul Gatley, Therese Hope, Robert, Coral Ring, Frances Lee, John Ruigrok, Marianne Janssen, Trudy Francis.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Verity Loke, Gwenda Lyons, 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 - 12th November**

**Mia Jansen and Eileen Collins**

### **Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul apostles Blessed Virgin Mary**



November 18 is the memorial of the dedication of two of the oldest and most important basilicas of the Church, the first St. Peter's Basilica and the first St. Paul's Basilica. Both churches were in Rome, one inside the ancient city walls on the Vatican Hill where local Christians believed that the grave of St. Peter was located, the other outside the ancient city walls on the Via Ostia where the relics of St. Paul were buried.

The Emperor Constantine (d. 337) ordered that churches be built at both sites. Construction on St. Peter's began while he was alive and was completed by his sons. A smaller church was built on the Via Ostia at the direction of Constantine, and in 386 the construction of a huge basilica began under Emperor Valentinian II and continued under

Emperors Theodosius and Honorius. St. Peter's was dedicated in 350 AD and St. Paul's was dedicated in 390 AD by Pope St. Siricius. Both basilicas, as impressive as they were, were later replaced by the magnificent basilicas of today. Construction on St. Peter's Vatican Basilica began in 1506, continued through the Sixteenth Century under the direction of Michelangelo (d. 1564), the main architect, as well as a number of other architects, and was consecrated on November 18, 1626, by Pope Urban VII. The first Basilica of St. Paul was destroyed by fire in 1823, was completely rebuilt, and the new Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls was consecrated on December 10, 1854, by Pope Pius IX. They are two of the four main pilgrimage churches in Rome, along with the basilicas of St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major.

While both basilicas have great spiritual significance, the saints that they honor are the main focus. Sts. Peter and Paul are remembered together twice during the liturgical year, on their Solemnity on June 29, and on the memorial of their first basilicas on November 18. They are the two princes of Christ's apostles, St. Peter, our leader in faith, the apostle to the Jews; and St. Paul, the fearless preacher of the faith, the apostle to the Gentiles. St. Peter raised up the Church from the faithful flock of Israel; St. Paul brought Jesus' call to the nations and became the teacher of the world (Preface 63, former Sacramentary).

Both saints have much in common. Peter and Paul were both Jews; both laborers, one a fisherman, the other a leather worker; both were called individually by Jesus, Peter while he was fishing, Paul while he was on the road to Damascus; both were aware that they were sinners, Peter, who said, "I am a sinful man" (Lk 5:8), Paul who wrote, "Christ Jesus came to save sinners ... of these I am the foremost" (1 Tm 1:15); both traveled extensively as missionaries to preach the gospel, Peter throughout Israel and then to Rome, Paul to Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome; both wrote extensively, Peter wrote two letters and most likely provided Mark with the information for his gospel, while thirteen letters are attributed to Paul; both were imprisoned, Peter in the Mamertinum prison in Rome, Paul in Philippi, Caesarea, and Rome; and both were martyred, Peter crucified upside down and Paul beheaded with a sword.

The Church received the beginning of her knowledge of things divine through Sts. Peter and Paul, and these two apostles are most responsible for the spread of Christianity. The truth was handed down to us by them, and we are governed under their patronage (Roman Missal).

<https://thecatholicspirit.com/commentary/hotdish/dedication-basilicas-sts-peter-paul/>

## Proclaim 2023

Over three days (16-18 November) join together with parishes from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne to be inspired, engaged and equipped to go out and proclaim the joy of the Gospel into your local community. Hear from inspiring local and international people including Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, Fr Rob Galea, Kym Keady, Karen Doyle, Ron Huntley and more. Encounter Jesus through prayer, music and fellowship and participate in workshops to equip ourselves for mission!

Register: <https://proclaim.melbournecatholic.org>.  
Use the discount code: parishmember to access the special registration price for parishioners.

Enquiries: (03) 9926 5761 or [proclaim@cam.org.au](mailto:proclaim@cam.org.au).



## SAVE THE DATE: WORKING BEE TO PREPARE GROUNDS FOR Christmas and the summer season.

**Date : 18th of November at St. Thomas More Church Belgrave**

As much of the major cutting back has been done over the last few working bees this one will focus on mulching all the garden beds to make them look more presentable and help save water and the plants during the summer. All the weeds will be sprayed in the week before. Bring your wheelbarrows and shovels!!!

Also, general cleaning around the church and painting of the windows surrounding the front entrance.

Looking forward to the same wonderful crowd who have turned up to the previous working bees. Extras most welcome to this fun and very productive activity in our Church. As many hands on deck as possible!!

### Enquiries:

Pat Coyne 0418585834

Maureen Coyne 0431483963



Church Working Bee

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](#)

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at [hadmin@cam.org.au](mailto:hadmin@cam.org.au)



**Southern Stars Social Club** ☆ ☆  
**Party For Single Catholics In The** ☆  
**28 To 60 Age Group**  
**Saturday 18th November**  
**Starting at 8.00 pm**  
**Location : School Hall at**  
**St Scholastica's Parish**  
**Corner of Burwood Highway and**  
**Stirling St East Burwood**  
**Melway Map 60 D6**  
**Cost \$13.00 Includes Supper And**  
**Lucky Door Prizes.**  
**Enquiries : Peter 9885 2167**

**ADVANCE NOTICE PLEASE NOTE THE DATE!! ADVANCE NOTICE**

We are once again in the process of planning a "craft -cake - plants - goods" stall after the 9.00 am Mass at Belgrave on Sunday November 26.

Last year's event was successful beyond our wildest imagination thanks to the mighty effort and generosity of many parishioners - makers and buyers alike. The need to raise funds for any number of projects is ongoing. So we are putting out an 'early bird' request for all crafters/cake bakers/growers/ etc in our parish to begin to think about what you might be able to create to add to this event to make it even better than last year's. All donations will be most welcome.

**Marianne Kuyper**

## SAVE THE DATE! Night of the Witnesses – 22 November 2023, 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral.

*Aid to the Church in Need* invites you to an evening of prayer, testimony, song, adoration and reflection to honour the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with Christians all over the world who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Archbishop Peter Comensoli will preside and His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church will be one of the international guest speakers who will share personal testimony of persecution for the faith. We hope you will join us. For more information please visit:

[www.aidtochurch.org/notw](http://www.aidtochurch.org/notw)



[2023 Knox Public Lecture](#)  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm

Live videostream via Zoom

*"Truth and Peace: Timeless Twins"*

Presented by Dr Susan Connelly RSJ

To book scan the QR code or go to [trybooking.com/CMYVM](http://trybooking.com/CMYVM)

Enquiries: (: +613 9412 3333 8:  
[vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au](mailto:vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au) ù: [ctc.edu.au](http://ctc.edu.au)

