

**Entrance Antiphon      Daniel 3:31,29,30,43,42**

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel**

**Ezekiel 18:25-28**

***The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.***

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm      Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6**

***Remember your mercies, O Lord.***

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians      Philippians 2:1-5**

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation      John 10:27**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

**Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew      Matthew 21:28-32**

***He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.***

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon      Cf Psalm 118:49-50**

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.



**Next week's readings**

First Reading:      Isaiah 5:1-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7

Second Reading:      Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel:      Matthew 21:33-43



# 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	

## **TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 30th September/ 1st October, 2023**

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

In every life there is a struggle between obedience and disobedience, and this struggle takes various twists and turns. At times we are willing to conform to regulations set from the outside, and at times we are not. We are invited to choose in favour of the reign of God, or we are free to ignore the invitation. Those who are fundamentally righteous sometimes fall from grace, and people considered evil to the core sometimes reform their lives. What ultimately counts are not the promises made, but the actions taken.

We are called to discipleship, and there may well be urgency in this call, but it is an invitation that is to be accepted freely. As is the case with life itself, options are placed before us all the way along the road. We are invited to choose in favour of the reign of God, or we are free to ignore the invitation. However, the invitation always remains open to us, because God's desire for our acceptance is persistent and enduring.

The real choice set before us today is the imitation of Christ. The specific characteristic of Christ today is his humility. Since demanding one's rights can undermine the loving quality of community, Jesus' humility is offered for our imitation. It is very clear that whichever aspect of discipleship we examine, some aspect of community is also present. To be a disciple of Jesus is to follow him humbly as a member of a believing community.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Oct01/0/RefDiBer>

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

**For the Synod** — We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

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

#### **PARISH PRIEST:**

Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
[Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au](mailto:Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au)  
87518112.

#### **Phone:**

#### **Parish Secretary:**

Mirani Perera

#### **Parish Office:**

97542141

#### **Sacraments :**

[belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)

#### **Child Safety Contacts:**

Jeanette Wicks 97542759

Monica Rayner

Chairperson — Dennis

Sue Luxford

#### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

##### **Monbulk:**

##### **Belgrave:**

David Bhoynz

##### **Gembrook:**

##### **Emerald:**

Evie and Irene Reed

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

#### **ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**

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#### **ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**

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## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

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

**Anniversaries:** Justin Eadie, Bishop Emeritus Hilton Deakin, Maureen Ann Tuisue, Justin Eadie, Geoff Henwood, Hugh Ilyine, Ted Madden, Terry O'Brien, Le Thity, Patricia Harrison.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: 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.**

## **Church Cleaning Roster - 8th October**

Janette Wicks & Una Steel



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)

**Please make your Thanksgiving contributions to your church via church account or scanning the QR code.**

St Thomas Mores Parish Church or

Account

BSB: 083 347

Account: 67214 6192



## **Parish Office Notice**

Fr. Cruz will not be available from 3rd of October to 26th October. The weekend masses will be taken care of by the Salesian priests.

The daily mass resumes on 28th October. (Saturday)

**Oliver Van Renzburg** will share his experience of being a participant in the world youth day Lisbon 2023, during the weekend mass at St. Thomas More church Belgrave. Let us thank and keep him in our prayers.

## **St Joseph's, Emerald, Mass Time, 2024**

We are currently considering changing the weekly Mass time at St Joseph's, Emerald from 6:00pm to 5:00 pm Saturday. The reasoning behind the proposed change is that the earlier time may be more convenient for families with young children. This may especially be the case in winter.

Since the St Joseph's Mass is the only Vigil Mass in the parish, such a change will affect more than the local Emerald parishioners, so we are seeking input from across the parish.

Please express your thoughts, especially if your Mass attendance will be adversely affected by the change. You can do so throughout October, by

\* speaking to Father Cruz

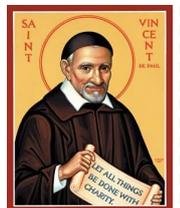
\* ringing/leaving a message at the Parish Office on 97542141

- emailing the Parish Office at [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)

The final decision on the change will be made after October.

## **Observance of the week**

St. Vincent de Paul



## **Important Feasts**

2nd October	The Holy Guardian Angles
4th October	St. Francis of Assisi
7th October	Our Lady of Holy Rosary
18th October	St. Luke, Evangelist
28th October	STS Simon & Jude, Apostles

**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)



**Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Feast day: Oct 07**

On October 7, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the yearly feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Known for several centuries by the alternate title of “Our Lady of Victory,” the feast day takes place in honor of a 16th century naval victory which secured Europe against Turkish invasion. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe.



The feast always occurs one week after the similar Byzantine celebration of the Protection of the Mother of God, which most Eastern Orthodox Christians and Eastern Catholics celebrate on October 1 in memory of a 10th-century military victory which protected Constantinople against invasion after a reported Marian apparition.

Pope Leo XIII was particularly devoted to Our Lady of the Rosary, producing 11 encyclicals on the subject of this feast and its importance in the course of his long pontificate.

In the first of them, 1883’s “Supremi Apostolatus Officio,” he echoed the words of the oldest known Marian prayer (known in the Latin tradition as the “Sub Tuum Praesidium”), when he wrote, “It has always been the habit of Catholics in danger and in troublous times to fly for refuge to Mary.” “This devotion, so great and so confident, to the august Queen of Heaven,” Pope Leo continued, “has never shone forth with such brilliancy as when the militant Church of God has seemed to be endangered by the violence of heresy ... or by an intolerable moral corruption, or by the attacks of powerful enemies.” Foremost among such “attacks” was the battle of Lepanto, a perilous and decisive moment in European and world history.

Troops of the Turkish Ottoman Empire had invaded and occupied the Byzantine empire by 1453, bringing a large portion of the increasingly divided Christian world under a version of Islamic law. For the next hundred years, the Turks expanded their empire westward on land, and asserted their naval power in the Mediterranean. In 1565 they attacked Malta, envisioning an eventual invasion of Rome. Though repelled at Malta, the Turks captured Cyprus in the fall of 1570.

The next year, three Catholic powers on the continent – Genoa, Spain, and the Papal States - formed an alliance called the Holy League, to defend their Christian civilization against Turkish invasion. Its fleets sailed to confront the Turks near the west coast of Greece on October 7, 1571. Crew members on more than 200 ships prayed the Rosary in preparation for the battle – as did Christians throughout Europe, encouraged by the Pope to gather in their churches to invoke the Virgin Mary against the daunting Turkish forces.

Some accounts say that Pope Pius V was granted a miraculous vision of the Holy League’s stunning victory. Without a doubt, the Pope understood the significance of the day’s events, when he was eventually informed that all but 13 of the nearly 300 Turkish ships had been captured or sunk. He was moved to institute the feast now celebrated universally as Our Lady of the Rosary.

“Turkish victory at Lepanto would have been a catastrophe of the first magnitude for Christendom,” wrote military historian John F. Guilmartin, Jr., “and Europe would have followed a historical trajectory strikingly different from that which obtained.”

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/feast-of-our-lady-of-the-rosary-617>

**October - The Month of the Rosary**

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7).

**The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary.**

Visit the below link for her fifteen promises

<https://airmaria.com/2015/10/07/i-am-the-lady-of-the-rosary-pray-the-rosary-daily/>

**Rosary starting at Emerald every Saturday from October 7th at 5.30 sharp before mass for the month of October. All welcome! Come and join us to ask for Our Lady’s intervention.**

