

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 24:6,2,22

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

A reading from the book of Genesis

Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:31-34

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since

God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

Mark

Mark 9:2-10

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Next week's readings

First reading	Exodus 20:1-17
Responsorial psalm	Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68
Second reading	1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Gospel	John 2:13-25



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 LENT YEAR B - 24th/25th February, 2024



REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'We too are called to climb up the mountain,' says Pope Francis, like the chosen disciples. But, as he points out, we are also called to bring our experience back down the mountain.

In our own lives, one way of understanding this is to contemplate our personal spiritual behaviours. The Pope takes the opportunity of this Gospel to remind us to beware of the risk of 'spiritual laziness'. Are we tempted to 'remain on the mountain and enjoy the bliss of this encounter on our own'? Do we risk taking too much private and possessive comfort from 'our prayers and liturgies'? As the Pope points out, we cannot stay on the mountain. 'Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, among our brothers and sisters and into daily life.' There is work to be done. It is not enough to come to Mass and posture and pray in a way that is cut off from life. The Church should never become a means of escaping reality or responsibility.

'We', the Pope proclaims, 'are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere.' Called up the mountain, we are sent down the mountain to go forth and take the mystery of the Transfigured One with us wherever we may go. We cannot do that if we keep our heads stuck in tents of our own making.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Feb25/0/RefNickB>

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

For the terminally ill - We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

<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: Evie and Irene Reed
Gembrook:
Emerald:

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:

Stephen John Billington, husband of Martha, father of Rosemary, Christopher, Kathryn and Michael.

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

Requiem Mass for the repose of the Soul of Stephen John Billington will be offered at St Thomas More Catholic Church, Belgrave on Monday 26 February commencing at 11.00 am.

The Rosary will be offered at the above church prior to Mass commencing at 10.30 am.

Live stream link available for those unable to attend see Le Pine website for details.

Donations in memory of Stephen can be made to Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Anniversaries: Anita Heyma, Diane Sharpe, Paul Selvanathan, Barrie Hood, Rosemary Hogan, Maria Costellano, Bill Holland, Elsie Rochford

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Vinesh Prasad, Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, 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, 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, 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 Brerton, 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 - 25th February

Robert Quirk & Elizabeth Drake

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



14th February	Ash Wednesday
24th March	Palm Sunday of the passion of the Lord
28th March	Holy Thursday
29th March	Good Friday / Passion of the Lord
31st March	Easter Sunday/Resurrection
7th April	Divine Mercy Sunday

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

Second Sunday of Lent 24 & 25 February

After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

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.



I would like to thank you for your prayers for Vocations over the years. We were delighted to accept eight men to the Seminary for Melbourne this year:

Chinh Tran, Rohan Prince, Luke Kennedy, Luke Emslie, Tung Phan, Joseph Maae, Patrick Harris and Mathews Noble.

Many of you have personally helped and encouraged these men along their journey to apply to the join the Seminary; it truly is a team effort!

Please continue to pray for them!

In Christ,

Fr Dishan and the Vocations Team



St Paul's Primary School - 59 Moores Rd Monbulk

2024 OPEN DAYS

Wednesday 13 March 9:30 tour

Tuesday 30 April 9:30 tour

Thursday 23 May 9:30 tour

Tuesday 4 June 9:30 tour

School Tours are also available by appointment

Call the office today on 9756 7201 to register for one of our Open Days



**St Paul's Primary School
Monbulk**

Ph.9756 7201 www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

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 Eucharis 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



The Stations of the Cross

Every Friday at 7pm at St. Thomas More Church Belgrave.



World Day of Prayer, 2024

"World Day of Prayer Date Postponed"

The World Day of Prayer service for the Dandenong Ranges will be held this year at St Mark's Anglican Church, Emerald, on **Friday, 15th March**, at 10:30am. The service will focus on World Peace and will be followed by Morning Tea. Everyone is invited to join in prayer and friendship with people of faith from our area.



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.