

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 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 book of Joshua Jos 5:9-12

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the Passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2 Cor 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 15:18

Alleluia, alleluia Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! **Alleluia**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Lk 15:1-3. 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: "A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days

later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening." 'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Lk 15: 32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

Next week's readings:

First Reading: Is 43:16-21

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

Second Reading: Phil 3:8-14

Gospel Jn 8:1-11



St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160

Phone: 97542141

Office Hours: 10am – 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 Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am Saturday Confession 9.45 am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C — 27th March, 2022

In today's Gospel, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, also called Laetare Sunday, God's loving mercy is presented by the Lord Jesus in what is very well known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Three characters in the parable, the younger son, elder son, and their father, weave a beautiful story of sin, envy, and mercy.

It unfolded with the younger son asking his father for his share of the inheritance. The father granted the request of the son which the son immediately converted into cash and went on to squander the money. Later, he experienced poverty and realized how the servants in their home were being treated much better. Humbled, he decided to go back home and ask forgiveness from his father. The son was guilty at least on two major counts; one, it was the older son who had first right on the inheritance, two, he asked his share even when his father was still alive. The second one is tantamount to wishing his father is dead!

When he arrived, even when he was still far away, his father did not wait for him to reach their house but proceeded to welcome him by running to where he was. This was seen by some exegetes as the father's way of sparing his son from further humiliation by going through the gauntlet of neighbours who would unkindly talk about him on his way to their house. Also, the father's gestures of running to him, embracing him, hugging him, and instructing the servants to give back to him all his things; ring, sandal, and finest robe were signs of forgiveness and welcoming back home the lost son. It was topped by slaughtering the fattened calf for the celebration. There were no explanations needed. The son is back and the father is just happy to have him again. Such compassion! Such love! Such mercy!

It did not end there. The father had to deal with the elder son, the one who had first priority on the inheritance and the one who had stuck it out with the father by being a good son. He was surprised at the feast held for his prodigal brother. He made it worse by reminding his father that he himself was not treated even fairly for never was he given even a young goat to feast with his friends. Note that he referred to his own brother not by name but "your son" which was a sign of disowning him. The answer of the father was classic, "My son, you are here with me always; and everything I have is yours." How could the son ask for more when he had everything? In fact, the more important possession he had was being with his father. He was supposed to be at peace.

Some of us are like the younger son. We want a lot from God. We want to be out of His fold so we could be free only to realize later that our best place is with Him. And some of us behave like the elder son who fail to realize how gracious it is to be with the father and fail to appreciate it! It would be wrong to imitate the younger son so as to be given the fattened calf to celebrate. If we ask the younger son, he would tell us that if he could only bring back time, he would not dare do what he did. The elder son should instead be happy like the father. His brother was lost and was found again. He suffered very much and humbled himself.

It is really hard to understand and fathom God's mercy. Or should we say, we could never understand and fathom the loving mercy of God. The fact that God commands and does it to all of us, it should be enough reason for us to be happy God is God. Who knows, one day, we will be in the shoes of the younger son. We will be the one needing His mercy. We will just be glad He is merciful.

Source: <https://www.catholicforlife.com/4th-sunday-homily-of-lent-year-c/>

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Monbulk:

Tony Whyte and Sue Luxford

Belgrave:

Evert Jansen and Mia Jansen

Gembrook:

Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and
Samantha Willis

Emerald:

John Conway & Dennis

Mt. Dandenong:

Matha Billington and Stephen Billington

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

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Laurie Webber the former parishioner, the husband of Dorothy, the father of Ryll and Lincoln. Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries: Leanne Murray, William & Kath Pizaro, Maureen Rath, Ron Hearnese, Richard Gilchrist, Elizabeth Ruigrok, Brian FitzGerald, Louise Ryan, Catherine Wijenands, Janine Lancashire, Joe Schubert, Judy Lloyd.

Prayer for the deceased:

Lord open wide the doors of your Mercy to all those who have passed away in the parish of St. Thomas More, Belgrave. In your compassion grant eternal bliss to all of them.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret & Fiona Gilhooly, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Joan Munday, 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.

Working Bee



Church Working Bee

To prepare the church and the grounds for the wonderful feast of Easter we are planning a working bee on Saturday the 9th of April from 10.15 am. (Day before Palm Sunday)

We are hoping to give the church a good "Autumn Clean" and also do some further gardening in the grounds depending on how many people are able to assist.

This is such a worthwhile and enjoyable opportunity to do something for the parish so we invite people, with even limited ability, to join us with a number of jobs to be completed.

If you have any queries, please call Patrick Coyne on 0418585834 or Maureen on 0431483963. Equipment and morning tea and lunch provided.



Thursday of the Lord's Supper—14h April

7.30pm at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave — Washing of the Feet and Eucharist.

8.30 pm Solemn Reservation. Adoration.

Good Friday - 15th April:

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 16th April: 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 17th April:

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.

- **We Recommend bringing a mask for Holy Thursday and Good Friday Passion, in case social distancing cannot be maintained with the numbers attending.**

Project Compassion Sunday 26 & 27 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box and a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and For All Future Generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Blankets for Seasonal Workers

A group of Tongan and Vanuatan Seasonal Workers is currently living at Gilwell park. They will be working on local farms throughout the coming winter. Coming from the tropics, they will feel the cold greatly. If you have blankets or doonas in clean condition to spare, please drop them at any of our Mass Centres by Palm Sunday.

Marilyn Huber.

Station of the Cross

Thomas More Church, Belgrave

Station of the cross on every Friday at 7pm



Baptism

Let us welcome **Audrey Bridgette Sablinskis** into our faith community as she is going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave. May she be richly blessed throughout her life, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

Middle Eastern Feast

The Social Justice Group, together with Casey Grandmothers 4 Refugees, invite parishioners to a Middle Eastern Feast, to raise funds for the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Centre and the Dandenong Asylum Seeker Centre.

Date: Sunday, 3rd April

Time; 1:00pm

Venue: Senior Citizens Centre, 8 Church Street, Emerald.

Bookings essential by 1st April. Ring or leave a message on 0423615662.

The Sacrament of Confirmation on 28th May

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave at 12pm

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk at 2pm

Celebrant: Most Rev. Bishop E.V. Tony Keren.

The parent and child workshop starts on Tuesday 26th April to 17th May at Parish office meeting room at 6.30pm. To enrol, please contact the parish office during office hours.

Tel : 97542141

email : belgrave@cam.org.au

Special Thanks to our Volunteers

Pastoral workers

Belgrave: Helen Garrick, Elizabeth Drake

David Atkinson.

Emerald Irene Reed, Eve Phillips

Monbulk Sue Luxford

Gembrook Christine Borg

thank you

First aid officers

Belgrave Helen Garrick, Christine Hadden and David Atkinson

We need first aid officers for other three mass centres and commander for all our mass centres.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

Cathedral overflows for Walk with Mary 2022

More than a thousand people filled St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 20 March for a special afternoon of prayer, the Rosary, Mass and a street procession, coming together to seek the intercession of our Our Lady for peace and unity in the world. It was the first time in three years that the "Walk with Mary" was able to take place, with people travelling from across the Archdiocese to take part. Bishop Tony Ireland led the Mass which concluded with a solemn entrustment of all present to Our Lady.

