

**Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 104:3-4**

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

**Exodus 22:20-26**

*If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.*

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans. "If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. "If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2**

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10**

*You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.*

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell

us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation John 14:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Matthew 22:34-40**

*You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 19:6**

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.



**Next week's readings**

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| First Reading:      | Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10  |
| Responsorial Psalm: | Ps 130                    |
| Second Reading:     | 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13 |
| Gospel:             | Matthew 23:1-12           |



# 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:

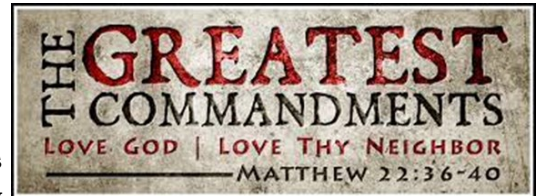
*We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service.....*

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	

## **THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 28th/29th October, 2023**

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

Our religious tradition is founded on love. Actually, life itself is grounded in love. We may not always feel this love, but if we allow ourselves to reflect on life, we will realise this truth. We have been called into being by God's love; and we will only be happy if we live in that love. Thus, when we are directed to love God and love one another, we are not being asked to do something contrary to our nature. Rather, we are being told to live in accord with that nature. We come from God who is love, and so it is in our very nature to love and to be loved.



We may sometimes think that it is easier to love God than to love others. It may actually be just the opposite. Other people are tangible. We can see and hear them, interact with them. Their influence in our lives can permeate our consciousness. That is not the way it is with God. Like Moses on the mountain, we can only see the traces of divinity as God passes by (see Ex 33:23). However, we show that we love God in the way we love our neighbour. Love, the foundation of the reign of God, is contagious. When we love others, the reign of God spreads throughout the world. The compassion that we show toward others is a form of evangelisation. It proclaims much louder than any words that the reign of God has been established.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Oct29/0/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>

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

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
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 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**

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

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[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:** Henny Phillips, William Dyer, Cyril (Bernard) Holmes, Mark Stokes, Stan Simek, Mabel Irving

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: 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 29th October

Robert Quirk and David Atkinson

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)



## October - The Month of the Holy Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. **The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary.**

**Reciting the Holy Rosary in October at Emerald catholic church every Saturday at 5.30pm before mass. All welcome! Come and join us to ask for Our Lady's intervention.**



## Important Dates

1st November All Saint's day  
2nd November All Soul's day

The All Soul's day mass will be at 9am and 7pm at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave.

In November we remember and pray for all the faithful departed and the holy souls in Purgatory.

## Catholic Theological College

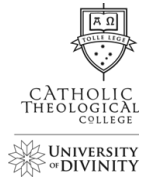
Online Information Session for 2024

Monday 30 October at 7.30pm (AEDT)

Register via our website: [ctc.edu.au/information-session](http://ctc.edu.au/information-session)

For more information contact:

Dr Maureen Saclot [ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/](http://ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/)



## Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine, plea for Peace in the Middle East and world peace


Let's redouble our prayers for a resolution for the Ukraine conflict and plea for Peace in the Middle East. The candlelight vigil returns next Wednesday, ( 1st November ) being the first Wednesday of the Month. Let's redouble our prayers for a resolution to this conflict and peace in the world.

**7 pm Mass**  
**7.30pm Private prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**7.45pm Rosary.**  
**8.05pm Benediction.**  
**8.15pm Finish.**



## 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)

 Aid to the Church in Need  
ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND



## 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).



### Celebrating All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day

In the Catholic tradition, November is traditionally a month of remembrance of the dead. The month begins with the Solemnity of All Saints on 1 November and the Commemoration of the All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), on 2 November. While no longer holy days of obligation in Australia, the Church has consistently encouraged prayers for the faithful departed and, during November, a list of the names of the dead is usually placed in the church so that the community can remember them in prayer.

#### The origins of All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day commemorates all the saints in heaven. The feast dates back to the early Church, when communities would gather and celebrate the anniversary of the martyr's death. During the persecution under the emperor Diocletian at the beginning of the fourth century the number of martyrs became so great that a separate day could not be assigned to each saint, so the Church established a common feast day for all the martyrs.

The first mention of this feast came during the pontificate of Pope Gregory III (731-741). On 1 November, 732, Pope Gregory consecrated a chapel in the Basilica of St Peter dedicated to honour all the saints.

The choice of day may have been also intended to co-opt the Ancient Roman 'Feast of the Lamures,' on which Romans used to placate the restless spirits of the dead. A century later, Pope Gregory IV (827-844) extended the celebration on 1 November to the universal Church. The feast took on such importance in the life of the Church that from the beginning it was celebrated with a vigil and, from the time of Pope Sixtus IV (1471-84), with an octave.

The liturgical celebration on the day before the feast became known as hallowed evening or Hallowe'en. All Saints Day represents the desire of the faithful to commemorate all saints, 'great multitude which no man could number' (Revelation 7:9), especially those who have no proper feast day of their own. All Saints' Day is a time to consider the example saints offer us and to reflect on how we can imitate their lives. As Pope Benedict XVI said, All Saints' Day calls us 'to see the Church... as Christ wanted it, that is, as the communion of saints.'

#### All Souls' Day

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. (Order of Christian Funerals)

All Souls' Day follows All Saints Day on 2 November and is also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed and the Day of the Dead. It is a day of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died. Believers remember, pray and offer Mass for the souls in Purgatory, that they may be purified and attain the Beatific Vision. All Souls Day originally was celebrated in the Easter season, around Pentecost Sunday. Believers pray for the souls which, on departing from the body are not perfectly cleansed from venial sins, or have not fully atoned for past transgressions, and are not yet able to be granted the Beatific Vision of with God in Heaven. The idea is that the living faithful can help them with prayers, almsgiving and especially the Sacrifice of the Mass. By the tenth century, the celebration had been moved from Pentecost to October. Sometime between 998 and 1030, St Odilo of Cluny ordered the commemoration of the faithful departed on 2 November in all of the monasteries of his Benedictine congregation. From there, it spread among the other congregations of the Benedictines and among the Carthusians over the next two centuries. Soon afterwards, the commemoration of all the Holy Souls in Purgatory spread to the entire Church from the diocese of Liege under Bishop Notger in the ninth century. The day is dedicated to prayer and remembrance, with requiem Masses held. A plenary indulgence may be gained for the dead on All Souls' Day, by visiting a Church and praying the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. There are three conditions to gaining a plenary indulgence: sacramental confession, eucharistic communion and prayer for the pope's intentions. Many people also visit and sometimes decorate the graves of deceased loved ones on All Souls' Day and throughout the month of November.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/all-saints-day-and-all-souls-day>