

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.

From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 43:16-21

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: no need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians Phil 3:8-14

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jl 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jn 8:1-11

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Jn 8:10-11

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.



Next week's readings:

First Reading: Is 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel Lk 23:1-49



St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160

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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 Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C — 3rd April, 2022

The Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Lent continues to offer lessons about God's mercy and forgiveness. Last Sunday we heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel of Luke. Today we hear not a parable, but the report from John's Gospel of an encounter among Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees, and a woman caught in adultery.

In John's Gospel, the conflict between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees occurs much earlier than in the Synoptic Gospels. Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem is reported at the beginning of John's Gospel. Even after this event, Jesus continues to teach in the Temple. After returning to Galilee for a time, Jesus again enters Jerusalem and cures a man on the Sabbath. From this point forward in John's Gospel, the Pharisees are described as making plans for Jesus' arrest and seeking his death.

In the chapter preceding today's Gospel, Jesus was teaching in the Temple area. Feeling threatened by his teaching and his actions, the chief priests and the Pharisees are already sending guards to arrest Jesus. The guards return, however, without arresting Jesus because they have been impressed by his words. Even more than this, some among the crowds are considering the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah. The chief priests and the Pharisees change their plan. Before making an arrest, they seek to gather more evidence against Jesus by posing a question intended to trap Jesus. Today's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case.

The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. The purpose of the question appears to be similar to the question about paying taxes found in [Mark 12:13-17](#). Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus.

Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing. This Scripture reading, by the way, is the only evidence we have of Jesus writing. Yet there are no specific details about what he wrote.

We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment. These Pharisees are not as self-righteous as the portrait found in the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector (See [Luke 18:9-14](#)). Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the one who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin.

Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fifth-sunday-of-lent-cycle-c-sunday-connection/>

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Tony Whyte and Sue Luxford

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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.**

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

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

Anniversaries: Maria Donker, Len Bennet, Luke Matanovic, Edward Sherry, Abraham Schellenbach, Anne Johnson, Willy Magnus, Jim McCart, Toos Kuyper.

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: Jack Weir, 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.

Work will include a big clean up of the church including removal of all cobwebs in lots of corners.

Vacuuming and window cleaning.

Clean-up outside near front gate to enable proper access to Parish Mass times. One big tree to be removed, chipper will be available for all cuttings.

General tidy up of the grounds depending on available people.

Light and heavier jobs to be done so all welcome to share the load.

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.**

Shaniella 23, from the Solomon Islands was determined to forge a path out of poverty, moving away to vocational school. With your support, Shaniella was able to overcome further challenges of natural disasters, and gain the skills she needs to create a brighter future for herself.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 so this transformational program can continue to empower and strengthen vulnerable communities For All Future Generations.

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.

Thanksgiving envelopes are available at your mass centre this weekend.

Divine Mercy Sunday — 24th April at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

Celebrant: Fr. Anthony Cruz

- 7.45 am — 8.45am — Reconciliation. (Two Priests are available)
- Blessing of the Divine Mercy Image at 9.00 am followed by the Holy Mass
- Exposition of the blessed sacrament
- Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Holy Rosary
- Reposition of the blessed sacrament



(When leaving the church, please venerate the Divine Mercy image).

The Divine Mercy novena starts on Good Friday.

Stations of the Cross

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

Stations of the cross on every Friday at 7pm



Thanks.....

Dear Parishioners,

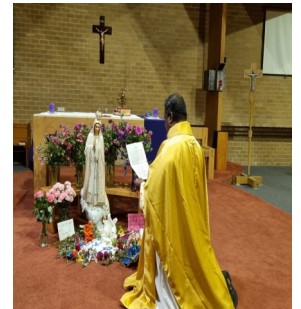
It was absolutely magnificent and spiritually uplifting when we had the holy Eucharistic celebration and Act of Consecration at 3am on the 26th March at St Thomas More Church, Belgrave. I thank all our parishioners for your prayers which enabled us to do what we did. And my special thanks to all those who participated in it at that time of the day with full enthusiasm and zeal.

My sincere thanks to St Thomas More school students, staff and the acting principal Declan for the way they honoured our Lady with their devotion-filled visit on the feast of the Annunciation, Friday the 25th of March, 2022.

Another person whom I should thank is Don Kempster who took initiative and Guy McDermott from Monbulk who donated all the flowers that we used for decorating our Lady's statue. May God bless him and his family for his generosity. Good on you McDermott.

Thank you also those who beautifully decorated the altar and the statue of our Lady.

Fr. Anthony Cruz



Baptism

Let us welcome **Alexia Nicole Wiering, Alara Jade Wiering and Harlan Michael Wiering** into our faith community as they are going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave. May they be richly blessed throughout their lives, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

Chrism Mass: Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Five parishioners can participate from our Parish. Please Contact Fr. Cruz by next Tuesday.