

**Entrance Antiphon Psalm 37:22-23**

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong  
salvation!

**A reading from the prophet Malachi**

**Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10**

*You have strayed from the way, you have caused  
many to stumble by your teaching.*

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration. Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 130**

*In you, Lord, I have found my peace.*

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13**

*We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.*

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human

thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation Matthew 23:9. 10**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Matthew 23:1-12**

*They do not practise what they preach.*

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi. 'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 15:11**

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

**Next week's readings**

<b>First Reading:</b>	Wisdom 6:12-16
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b>	Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2
<b>Second Reading:</b>	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 25:1-13



# 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	

### **THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 4TH/5TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

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

Since Vatican II the responsibilities of leadership have been spread throughout the community. This has not happened simply because there are fewer priests and religious. It has occurred primarily because the Council itself insisted that by virtue of their baptism all Christians are called to discipleship, which includes active participation in the mission of the church. While those who are ordained continue in specialised forms of leadership, other people have stepped forward to assume their newly recognised responsibilities. Sometimes they have more influence in the church than do the ordained. We derive the connection between pharisaical and hypocritical from Jesus' description of the Pharisees found in today's reading. His condemnation, along with the condemnation of the priests in the first reading, should be a warning to all who in any way exercise leadership. We must always be on our guard lest the trappings of leadership ensnare us and we fail in our responsibilities toward God and the community we serve. There is a mode of leadership that reflects the very meaning of authority. This way of leadership authors life. It is characterised by the striking image of a nursing mother who both gives and sustains life. Those who exercise leadership in this way create a community where life is fostered, not stifled, where talents serve all of the members, and the talents of all of the members are invited to serve. Such a community not only nurtures its members, it is itself the author of life in the world.



Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.  
**Matthew 23:12**

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Nov05/0/RefDiBer>

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

**For the Pope** - *We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

<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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**Phone:** Mirani Perera  
97542141  
**Parish Secretary:** *belgrave@cam.org.au*  
**Parish Office:** Jeanette Wicks 97542759  
**Sacraments :** Monica Rayner  
**Child Safety Contacts:** Chairperson — Evie  
Sue Luxford

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**Monbulk:** David Bhoynz

**Belgrave:** David Bhoynz  
**Gembrook:** Evie and Irene Reed  
**Emerald:** Evie and Irene Reed

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**  
Principal: Declan McDermott  
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## **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:** Heinz Huber, Marie Tirchett, Oliver Goodrich, Nicholaas Broekhof, John Boland, Walter McMahon, Arthur Griffiths, Sr. Marie Dolore DDZ.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Verity Loke, 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 - 5th November**

Maureen and Patrick Coyne

### **Church Cleaning Roster**

Chris Hadden & Sue Fitzgerald

### **Month of the Souls in Purgatory**

The month of November (Overview - Calendar) is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life, but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. St. Paul warns us that we must not be ignorant concerning the dead, nor sorrowful, "even as others who have no hope ... For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven ... and the dead who are in Christ shall rise. The Church has always taught us to pray for those who have gone into eternity. Even in the Old Testament prayers and alms were offered for the souls of the dead by those who thought "well and religiously concerning the resurrection." It was believed that "they who had fallen asleep with godliness had great grace laid up for them" and that "it is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." We know that a defiled soul cannot enter into heaven.

Excerpted from *Liturgical Meditations*, The Sisters of St. Dominic

### **Duration of Purgatory**

Purgatory is not eternal. Its duration varies according to the sentence pronounced at each particular judgment. It may be prolonged for centuries in the case of the more guilty souls, or of those who, being excluded from the Catholic communion, are deprived of the suffrages of the Church, although by the divine mercy they have escaped hell. But the end of the world, which will be also the end of time, will close for ever the place of temporary expiation. God will know how to reconcile His justice and His goodness in the purification of the last members of the human race, and to supply by the intensity of the expiatory suffering what may be wanting in duration. But, whereas a favourable sentence at the particular judgment admits of eternal beatitude being suspended and postponed, and leaves the bodies of the elect to the same fate as those of the reprobate; at the universal judgment, every sentence, whether for heaven or for hell, will be absolute, and will be executed immediately and completely.

### **Offering Prayers and Sacrifices**

The Church Suffering and the Church Militant constitute in their relations a second circle of most vital activities. Having entered into the night "wherein no man can work," the Suffering Church cannot ripen to its final blessedness by any efforts of its own, but only through the help of others—through the intercessory prayers and sacrifices (suffragia) of those living members of the Body of Christ who being still in this world are able in the grace of Christ to perform expiatory works. The Church has from the earliest times faithfully guarded the words of Scripture that it is a holy and a wholesome thing to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins. [2 Macab. 12, 43] The suppliant cry of her liturgy: "Eternal rest give to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them," can be heard already in the Acts of the martyrdom of SS. Perpetua and Felicitas (A.D. 203) and is represented in numerous sepulchral inscriptions of the most ancient period, while theologians and Fathers of the Church, beginning with Tertullian, have supplied its substantial proof. . . . So fundamental indeed and so natural to man's hope and desire and love is this belief, that historians of religion have discovered it among almost all non-Christian civilized peoples: a striking illustration of Tertullian's saying that the human soul is naturally Christian. The Catholic, therefore, is jealous to expiate and suffer for the "poor souls," especially by offering the Eucharistic Sacrifice, wherein Christ's infinite expiation on the Cross is sacramentally represented, and stimulating and joining itself with the expiatory works of the faithful, passes to the Church Suffering according to the measure determined by God's wisdom and mercy.

**Karl Adam**

[https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/11\\_1.cfm](https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/11_1.cfm)

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)



## 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).



## Visit of His Excellency Most Rev Paul Gallagher

Secretary for the Relations with States and International Organisations, Secretariat of State, Holy See

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Vatican, Archbishop Comensoli is pleased to welcome His Excellency Most Rev Paul Gallagher and the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia – His Excellency Most Rev Charles Balvo to Melbourne. Archbishops Comensoli, Gallagher and Balvo, together with clergy of the Archdiocese, will celebrate Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – Thursday 9 November, 5.30pm. All are welcome to attend.



## ADVANCE NOTICE PLEASE NOTE THE DATE!! ADVANCE NOTICE

We are once again in the process of planning a "craft -cake - plants - goods" stall after the 9.00 am Mass at Belgrave on Sunday November 26.

Last year's event was successful beyond our wildest imagination thanks to the mighty effort and generosity of many parishioners - makers and buyers alike. The need to raise funds for any number of projects is ongoing. So we are putting out an 'early bird' request for all crafters/cake bakers/growers/ etc in our parish to begin to think about what you might be able to create to add to this event to make it even better than last year's. All donations will be most welcome.

**Marianne Kuyper**

## SAVE THE DATE: WORKING BEE TO PREPARE GROUNDS FOR Christmas and the summer season.

As much of the major cutting back has been done over the last few working bees this one will focus on mulching all the garden beds to make them look more presentable and help save water and the plants during the summer. All the weeds will be sprayed in the week before. Bring your wheelbarrows and shovels!!!

Also, general cleaning around the church and painting of the windows surrounding the front entrance.

Looking forward to the same wonderful crowd who have turned up to the previous working bees. Extras most welcome to this fun and very productive activity in our Church.



Church Working Bee

### Enquiries:

Pat Coyne 0418585834

Maureen Coyne 0431483963

## Baptism

Let us welcome **Amelia Salemme** into our faith community.

May she be richly blessed throughout her life constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.



## 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



[2023 Knox Public Lecture](#)  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm

Live videostream via Zoom

*"Truth and Peace: Timeless Twins"*

Presented by Dr Susan Connelly RSJ

To book scan the QR code or go to [trybooking.com/CMYVM](http://trybooking.com/CMYVM)

Enquiries: (: +613 9412 3333 8:

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