

## The Baptism of the Lord Year B

### **Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Mt 3:16-17**

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 55:1-11**

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

**The word of the Lord.**

### **Responsorial Palm Is 12:2-6. R. v.6**

**(R.) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**

Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

**(R.) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

### **A reading from the first letter of St John**

1 Jn 5:1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child that he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth - so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

**The word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation: See Mk 9:8**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

**Alleluia!**

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

Mk 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

### **Communion Antiphon: Jn 1:32,34**

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.



# Parish of Belgrave

## The Catholic Church

**P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160**  
**Phone:** 97542141  
**Office Hours:** 10am—2pm Tuesday to Friday  
**After hours Phone No:** 87518112  
**Internet:** pol.org.au/belgrave  
**Email:** belgrave@cam.org.au

*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 Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Belgrave Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	6.00pm Vigil Mass	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

### Homily for the Baptism of the Lord

The Christmas season, celebrating the Self-revelation of God through Jesus, comes to an end with the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. Christmas is the feast of God's Self-revelation to the Jews, and Epiphany celebrates God's Self-revelation to the Gentiles. At his Baptism in the Jordan, Christ reveals himself to repentant sinners. The liturgical season of Christmas comes to a conclusion this Sunday with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

#### A couple of questions

- 1) Why did Jesus, the sinless Son of God, receive the "baptism of repentance" meant for sinners?
- 2) Why did Jesus wait for thirty years to begin his public ministry?

The presence of the Triune God at this baptism, reveals Jesus' true identity and mission. The Heavens' opening also indicates that this was a moment of God's powerful intervention in human history and in the life of His Son. His baptism by John was a very important event in the life of Jesus. First, it was a moment of **decision**. It marked the end of Jesus' private life, which had prepared him for his public ministry. Second, it was a moment of **identification** with his people in their God-ward movement initiated by John the Baptist. Third, it was a moment of **approval**. Jesus might have been waiting for a signal of approval from his Heavenly Father, and during his baptism, Jesus got this approval of himself as the Father's "beloved Son." Fourth, it was a moment of **conviction**. At this baptism, Jesus received certainties (assurances) from Heaven about his identity and the nature of his mission: a) He was the "Chosen One" and the "beloved Son of God"; b) his mission of saving mankind would be fulfilled, not by conquering the Romans, but by becoming the "suffering servant" of God, i.e., by the cross. Fifth, it was a moment of **equipment**. When He descended on Jesus in the form of a dove (symbol of gentleness), the Holy Spirit equipped Jesus with the power of healing, and that of preaching the "Good News" -- that God is a loving Father, Who wants to save all human beings from their sins through His Son Jesus.

#### Lessons for us today

1. The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity. It reminds us of who we are and whose we are. By Baptism we become the adoptive sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of Heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. We become incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made sharers in the priesthood of Christ [CCC #1279]. Hence, "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments."
2. Jesus' baptism reminds us of our mission: a) to experience the presence of God within us, to acknowledge our own dignity as God's children and to appreciate the Divine Presence in others by honouring them, loving them and serving them in all humility; b) to live as the children of God in thought, word and action so that our Heavenly Father may say to each one of us what He said to Jesus: "You are My beloved son/daughter with whom I am well pleased."
- 3) This is also a day for us to renew our Baptismal promises, consecrating ourselves to the Holy Trinity and "rejecting Satan and all his empty promises," which our secular world is constantly offering us through its mass-media of communication. Let us ask Our Lord today to make us faithful to our Baptismal promises. Let us thank Him for the privilege of being joined to His mission of preaching the "Good News" by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service and forgiveness.

Source: An edited homily from <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2019-01/sunday-reflections-13-jan-2019.html>

#### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

**Phone:**  
**Parish Secretary:**  
**Parish Office:**  
**Sacraments :**

#### Child Safety Contacts:

#### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

**Monbulk:**  
**Belgrave:**  
**Gembrook:**  
**Emerald:**  
**Mt. Dandenong:**

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**Rin Van Raay**

**Marie Madden**

**Pam Giulieri**

**John Conway & Lisa McLean**

**Stephen Billington & Virginia Schneiders**

#### ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE

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## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

### **Recent deaths:**

**Anniversaries:** Lucy Rawlin, Ted Regan, Marilyn Fitzmaurice, John Kruyer, Max Proctor, Hermino Balladares, Krl Visser, Kathleen Mrtin, Alex West, Baptiste Colussi, Hugh Lane, Tim Foley, John Weichard. Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

### **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: Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Lil Warner, Fiona, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Joy Goodie, Tom Fergus, Leo and Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, StepheLois Lenaghan, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, Alida Cabret, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret & Fiona Gilhooly, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Helen Hermann, Lyn Blackman, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Peter Campion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

### **Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings**

- Record Keeping is still required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit – and must include: First Name, Last name, Contact Number, Date and Time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- Please carry a face covering at all times as we may not be able to maintain 1.5m social distance. ( Children age under 12 and those who have lawful reasons are excepted from wearing masks).
- We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

**Belgrave - 120 people**

**Emerald - 40 people**

**Monbulk - 60 people**

**Gembrook - 40 people**

Please sign in before you enter the Church with your *name and your contact number*.

### ***St Vincent de Paul Society***

St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers are committed to providing people with access to the resources and support they need to overcome personal hardship. Our service is run entirely by volunteers and funded through the generosity of donations from our local community.

If you require assistance, please phone our Welfare Assistance Line on: Free Call 1800 305 330 Monday to Friday, 10:00am - 3:00pm, except for public holidays.

### **FUNDRAISING NEWS:**

*We are in the process of collecting old stamps and old coins*

Can you please keep all used postage stamps (Australian and overseas) and overseas money, also old stamp albums.

These are for sale at the next parish fete. Send to the parish office or call Tony Whyte (St Paul's Monbulk) for collection.

Thankyou

### **BAPTISM:**

To arrange a Baptism in the Parish, please phone the parish office during the office hours on 97542141.

### **History of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

The Baptism of the Lord has historically been associated with the celebration of Epiphany. Even today, the Eastern Christian feast of Theophany, celebrated on January 6 as a counterpart to the Western feast of Epiphany, focuses primarily on the Baptism of the Lord as the revelation of God to man.

After the Nativity of Christ (Christmas) was separated from Epiphany, the Church in the West continued the process and dedicated a celebration to each of the major epiphanies (revelations) or theophanies (the revelation of God to man). There was the Birth of Christ at Christmas, which revealed Christ to Israel; the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles, in the visit of the Wise Men at Epiphany; the Baptism of the Lord, which revealed the Trinity; and the miracle at the wedding at Cana, which revealed Christ's transformation of the world. (For more on the four theophanies, see the article on Christmas.)

Thus, the Baptism of the Lord began to be celebrated on the octave (eighth day) of Epiphany, with the miracle at Cana celebrated on the Sunday after that. In the current liturgical calendar, the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Sunday after January 6, and, a week later, on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, we hear the Gospel of the Wedding at Cana.

Source: <https://www.learnreligions.com/the-baptism-of-the-lord-542465>

## Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”



With the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,**

**Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

**To you God entrusted his only Son;**

**in you Mary placed her trust;**

**with you Christ became man.**

**Blessed Joseph, to us too,**

**show yourself a father**

**and guide us in the path of life.**

**Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,**

**and defend us from every evil. Amen.**

Source:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>



Dear parishioners,

On December 5<sup>th</sup> Our Archbishop A. Peter Comensoli has written a pastoral letter to the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, expressing his concerns over the Bill ( Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020 ) quietly tabled last week by the State Government of Victoria. The Archbishop has asked us to make the parishioners aware of the Bill and its Implications, and encourage the parishioners to phone our local Member of Parliament to express our view.

Because, the bill has not been widely publicised, many parents and families, clergy and people of faith are currently unaware of the contents of this proposed legislation, which might have a chilling effect on the ability of Victorian people of faith to express a view, share their faith, or talk about biblical teaching without fear of state interference. In fact, the ultimate outcome of this bill may not actually be to protect anyone who is vulnerable, but to silence people of faith from expressing their view.

<https://content.legislation.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/bills/591143exi1.pdf>

<https://content.legislation.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/bills/591143bi1.pdf>

Let us not forget to express our views to our Local Member of Parliament.

**Fr. Anthony Cruz**

### *Difficult Decision*

For the last 12 years, our Parish Social Justice Group has operated a free meal service at the Tin Shed in Belgrave’s main street. Those who used the service, regularly praised the warm friendly atmosphere and the generous quantities of nourishing food we offered. Teams of cooks from our parish, St John the Baptist Ferntree Gully, Mater Christi College and St Thomas More Primary School, supported by our three dedicated co-ordinators, Janette Van Santen, John Shaw and Lou Iaquinto, have sustained this initiative and made it successful.

A recent meeting of the Social Justice Group decided to discontinue Tucker in the Tin Shed. In making this difficult decision, we recognized that the number of diners we were serving has diminished; that more meal services such as Kindness Kitchen in Tecoma, Dig In Café in Emerald; Upwey Baptist Church Community Meals have developed over the years, making more meals available to more people; our ministry has required devoted efforts many people for 12 years.

An uncertain future awaits many in our area, as the full effects of pandemic related unemployment are realized. The Social Justice Group would like to continue working in areas of social need. Our Vision Statement indicates that we exist to raise awareness of Social Justice issues and to be actively involved in addressing them. We would welcome suggestions from parishioners as to where and how our group can be involved. Please send your ideas to Marilyn Huber’s email address: [mm.huber34@gmail.com](mailto:mm.huber34@gmail.com)

**Marilyn Huber**